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# THE DAILY BEAT

This publication is provided by the [Governor's Office of Indian Affairs](#) and the [State-Tribal Economic Development Commission](#). The Daily Beat provides daily updates, announcements and articles relevant to Indian Country in Montana. Current and archived issues can be found on the [State-Tribal Economic Development Commission](#) website. Questions? Email Billie Rusek @ [brusek@mt.gov](mailto:brusek@mt.gov) or Heather Sobrepeña-George at [hsobrepena@mt.gov](mailto:hsobrepena@mt.gov)

## MONTANA TRIBAL NEWS:

### BRESNAN PUTTING WI-FI ACCESS IN DOWNTOWN

By CYNTHIA REYNAUD, The Gazette Staff (08/29/07)

Billings residents soon may be able to access wireless Internet throughout much of downtown, according to Bresnan Communications' local management. Bresnan is installing 32 Wi-Fi radios downtown to provide an outdoor wireless connection in the area north of Montana Avenue between North 24th Street and North 32nd Street to Montana State University Billings, said Sean O'Donnell, Bresnan's vice president of operations for Montana.

### BLACKFEET CERTIFIED AS STATE'S FIRST NATIVE AMERICAN ONE-STOP SYSTEM

By John McGill, Glacier Reporter (08/29/07)

The Governor's State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) proudly announced certification of Montana's first designated Native American One-Stop System, Nit-Sit-Tah-Poh-Tahk-Kaaks, Working Friends, in Browning.

"The certification represents effective community partnerships in the workforce system within the boundaries of the Blackfeet Nation," said Governor Brian Schweitzer.

"This is a historical event," said Blackfeet Chairman Old

Person upon receiving certification. "Yesterday we were followers. Today we are leaders."



Celebrating their successful walk through inspection, Blackfeet Manpower representatives had lunch at Glacier Peaks Casino with State Workforce Investment Board members and Blackfeet Tribal Business Council members, as well as Glacier County Commissioner Michael DesRosier and State Senator Carol Juneau. Photo by John McGill

### IHS PLAYGROUND MADE OF 68,000 RECYCLED MILK JUGS

By JOHN MCGILL, Glacier Reporter (08/29/07)

It's hard to believe, but the new playground equipment installed Tuesday, Aug. 21, at housing near Blackfeet Community Hospital is made nearly entirely of recycled milk jugs. In fact, it took more than 68,000 jugs to create the complex of slides and ladders and forts. Not only is it soft and warm to the touch, it's warranted to last 100 years.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

**Fort Belknap Indian Community** and **Blackfeet Housing** both received a *FY 07 Gang Resistance Education Training (G.R.E.A.T.)* grant in the amounts of \$150K and \$95,002. The grant will implement a life-skills competency program designed to provide students

with the skills they need to avoid gang pressure and youth violence.

### **NEW PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH OF INDIANS, NON-INDIANS REVEALS WIDE GAPS, MUTUAL DESIRE TO INCREASE UNDERSTANDING THROUGH EDUCATION**

Source PUBLIC AGENDA, PRNewswire-USNewswire (08/29/07)

NEWYORK Most of the public admit knowing little of contemporary Indian life; Indians eager to show successes and continuing challenges -- The nonpartisan public opinion research and citizen engagement organization Public Agenda today released a new qualitative study exploring how American Indians(1) and non-Indians think about each other titled "Walking a Mile: A First Step Toward Mutual Understanding." The research explores Indians' perceptions of their place in contemporary American society and how non-Indians view American Indians, what they know (or think they know), the generalizations they make and stereotypes they hold, how their perceptions were formed and their interest in learning more.

The research is available online at:  
<http://www.publicagenda.org/WalkingaMile>.

### **NAVAJO ARTIST CREATES SKATEBOARDS FEATURING FEMALE WARRIOR IMAGES**

By ASSOCIATED PRESS ( 08/29/2007)



Jolene with her custom designed skateboard. Photo by Tristan Ahtone.

GALLUP, N.M. — Jolene Nenibah Yazzie remembers as a young girl how she and her little sister Janene were awed by the abilities of the comic book superhero Wonder Woman.

They were fascinated by a number of other female super heroes, but they dazzled with Wonder Woman's long

black hair that reflected their own and were infatuated by the strength and exuberance she possessed.

"But we always wanted to look up to Native super heroes," remembers Jolene Yazzie.

Being as there were no American Indian super heroes — and no American Indian female super heroes at that — Yazzie would eventually create her own.

Yazzie takes out a skateboard with the image of her first Native women super hero, Ko' Asdzaa, translating to "Fire Woman" in Navajo. It will be the first image in limited edition series of skateboards designed by Yazzie.

### **CSKT DEFENDS RESPONSE TO JOCKO LAKES FIRES**

By VINCE DEVLIN, Missoulain (08/30/07)

PABLO - The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have successfully repressed more than 90 wildfire starts in the Jocko Lakes region over the last 20 years, according to fire division manager Tony Harwood, and he's disappointed some people appear to be questioning the tribes' response to one this summer.

The 35,000-acre Jocko Lakes fire that eventually threatened Seeley Lake officially broke out Aug. 3, but officials believe it may have been caused by a lightning strike back on July 17.

### **BEAR PAW DEVELOPMENT HIRES VALUE-ADDED AG COORDINATOR**

By TIM LEEDS Havre Daily News (08/22/07)

Pam Lamer joined Bear Paw Development Corp. this month as its value added agriculture coordinator, and says she is looking forward to her job. "I'm very excited about the current projects," she said Tuesday. "I look forward to being able to turn these into reality, and having the opportunity to make the local economy better. It's going to be a very rewarding experience." Paul Tuss, executive director at

Bear Paw Development, said Lamer's background and experience will make a good fit in the position, which has the goal of helping agriculture producers find ways to add value to their commodities. "Her experience in finance will be extremely valuable," he added. The program, one of four in the Bio Product Innovation Center program in eastern Montana, is funded through the WIRED program administered by the Montana Department of Agriculture.

### **CHIPPEWA CREE HEALTH CONCERNS VOICED TO SENATE AT CROW AGENCY**

By ELIZABETH DONEY Havre Daily News (08/20/07)

More than 200 people were present to hear testimony on the issues affecting health care for Indian Country at the Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing on Aug. 15 at Crow Agency. "For some time now, the United States has not funded the true need of health services for American Indian/Alaskan Native people," Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy of Rocky Boy said in his testimony at the committee hearing, "The medical inflationary rate over the past ten years has averaged 11 percent. The average increase for the Indian Health Service health services accounts over this same period has been only 4 percent. This means that IHS/Tribal/Urban Indian health programs are forced to absorb the mandatory costs of inflation, population growth, and pay cost increases by cutting health care services."

### **GRANT AWARDED TO STONE CHILD COLLEGE**

GREAT FALLS TRIBUNE (07/03/07)

BOX ELDER — Stone Child College in Box Elder has been awarded a \$159,599 grant to help Indian children succeed in school, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced.

In all, eight grants totaling \$1,941,692 were awarded to programs in six states.

Stone Child College will use the grant to work with two rural school districts on a comprehensive academic program that will promote student success, expand curriculum offerings and increase access to

postsecondary education opportunities while helping Indian students transition to college.

The effort also will include activities to involve students in their communities and develop social responsibility. "Every child deserves a quality education, and the sad truth is that many students in our country still don't get one. No Child Left Behind is working hard to change that reality," said Spellings.

More information is available from the Office of Indian Education at its Web site, [www.ed.gov/programs/Indiandemo/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/programs/Indiandemo/index.html)

### **TRIBAL COLLEGE 1<sup>st</sup> day of School:**

<b>Stone Child Community College</b>	<b>08/31/07</b>
<b>Chief Dull Knife Community College</b>	<b>08/27/07</b>
<b>Salish Kootenai College</b>	<b>10/01/07</b>
<b>Blackfeet Community College</b>	<b>09/05/07</b>
<b>Fort Belknap</b>	<b>09/04/07</b>
<b>Fort Peck Community College</b>	<b>08/27/07</b>
<b>Little Big Horn College</b>	<b>09/04/07</b>